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A.—The plans and estimates for the restoration of the tank are under the consideration of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. The question of the execution of the project will be considered when the estimates are submitted to Government.

Investigation of the failure of freshes in the river Palar.

33 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what stage the question of the investigation of the failure of freshes in the river Palar (North Arcot and Chingleput districts) stands; and

(*b*) whether the Government have moved in the matter of making representations to the Mysore Government on this subject, and if so, with what result?

A.—(*a*) The preliminary investigation is nearly completed. It has involved the compilation of statistics for a period of 30 years.

(*b*) Yes. It is reported that tanks in Mysore which breached in 1903 have been restored to their original capacity, but that no new tanks have been constructed, that extension of irrigation in Mysore have been trifling, and that the rainfall during the last 10 years has diminished by 12 to 13 per cent in the Palar basin in Mysore.

Loans

Recovery of amounts advanced to agriculturists in Chittoor and North Arcot districts.

34 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*a*) the amounts advanced to agriculturists in Chittoor and North Arcot districts under the Agriculturists (Improvements) Loans Act for the three years ending with 30th September 1930;

(*b*) the amounts ordered to be summarily recovered under the two following reasons:—

(1) as the works were not completed within the stipulated time; and

(2) as the amounts of the loans were misapplied by the works not being done at all?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have called for the information.

[For further list of Unstarred questions, vide page 138 infra.]

STARRED QUESTIONS—*cont.*

Education

Scale of pay in the Subordinate Educational Service.

* 35 *Q.*—Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the question of increasing the pay of the Assistant Professors or Assistant Lecturers in the Subordinate Educational Service in the Government Colleges?

A.—Yes. A selection grade on Rs. 250—10—300 for 5 per cent of the cadre has been sanctioned with effect from the 1st April 1929.

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Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" What is the percentage of promotion to the higher grade in the case of Assistant Professors? Are they given opportunities to rise to the selection grade in the service."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I am not able to understand the supplementary question. If the hon. Member means the rate of promotion to the selection grade, the percentage is 5 per cent."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" What is the percentage of promotion from this grade to the higher service ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Notice."

Excise

Functions of the Abkari Advisory Committees.

*36 Q.—Mr. J. A. DAVIS : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state whether the functions of the Abkari Advisory Committee are restricted to the one matter of the approval or change of sites for liquor shops ?

A.—The answer is in the negative. The hon. Member's attention is invited to rules 12 to 14 of the rules for the constitution of, and the conduct of business by, the Excise Advisory Committees published at pages 1262–63 of Part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 6th September 1927.

Effect of Temperance Propaganda on Excise Revenue.

*37 Q.—Mr. K. P. V. S MUHAMMAD MEERA RAVUTTAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state how far the propaganda has affected the Excise revenue of the Government in the districts in which this propaganda is carried on ?

A.—The Temperance Propaganda Scheme has been in operation only since the latter part of the year 1929 and it is too early to estimate its effect on the Excise revenue.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether it is a fact, Sir, that the Excise revenue has increased in spite of the Temperance Propaganda ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I do not think so."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister state whether they are going to continue Temperance Propaganda ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It has not been settled yet. It is under consideration."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" May I know when it will be settled ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I cannot say exactly, when."